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REPORT

OF THE

Philadelphia School District Board of
" **CONTROLLERS**

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OF THE

(10350)
PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

RELATIVE TO EXPENDITURES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES;
FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 1845,

COMMUNICATED TO THE

COUNTY BOARD,

SEPTEMBER 24, 1845.



PHILADELPHIA:
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RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

RESOLVED, That the Controllors of the Public Schools be and they are hereby requested to inform the County Board, at its next meeting, what appropriations beyond the amount received from the State, and the \$25,000, recently appropriated by this Board for the payment of Teachers' Salaries, will be necessary to meet the following items of expenditure for the School year 1845, designating the amount necessary to be appropriated under each item:—

1. For the settlement of contracts entered into prior to the 3d instant, for the erection of new School Houses.

2. For the erection of new School Houses, not yet under contract.

3. For the payment of Salaries of Teachers of Grammar, Secondary and Primary Schools.

4. For the payment of Professors and Teachers of High School.

5. For the settlement of small Bills, or bills not exceeding in amount \$20 each.

6. For the payment of Ground Rents.

7. For Books, Stationery, &c.

8. For cleaning School Houses.

9. For Salaries of Officers of the Board,

10. For rent of School Houses.

11. For Fuel, Furnaces and Stoves.

12. For Repairs of School Houses.

13. For Water Rents.

14. For incidental expenses, such as Printing and Advertising, Professional Services, Carriage Hire, Messenger, Hardware and other items not included under the foregoing heads.

And also to inform the County Board what appropriation has been made by the Controllors of the amount received from the Commonwealth for the present school year, and what amount has already been expended by said Controllors for supplies.

REPORT.

The Committee of the Board of Control to whom was referred the communication of the County Board, containing certain questions

relative to the expenses of the Public Schools for the First School District—respectfully Report,

That while the Board of Control are desirous to give to the public and to every body entitled to receive it, the fullest explanation of the expenses, finances, and condition of the Public Schools under their charge, they must protest against the construction of the law contained in a late Report of a majority of a Committee of the County Board, by which the right is claimed by that body to appropriate specific amounts of the appropriation required by the Board of Control, to specific purposes.

Admitting the right of the County Board to reduce the gross amount of the requisition of the Board of Control, the appropriation of specific sums to specific purposes involves the exercise of a discretion which the law has placed upon those having the charge of the Public Schools. The exercise of this discretion requires an intimate knowledge of the details of the Public School System, which can only be acquired by continued attention to the subject. This, the members of the County Board, from their other duties, are obviously unable to give. And if they had the ability to do that which their construction of the law would oblige them to do, why keep up the Board of Control or Sectional Boards at all? The County Board will *examine* whether a teacher is required in one school, or supplies in another, and they alone will say whether money shall be granted for these purposes. Is it not unjust to make the gentlemen who constitute the School Boards, responsible for the efficiency of a system which they have not either money to carry on, or which they are obliged to conduct according to the views of a body, who must be entirely ignorant of its wants? The Board of Control, therefore, in answering the questions addressed to them by the County Board, do so with a protest of the right of the County Board, under the law, to appropriate specific amounts to specific purposes.

Your Committee would remark, that it is impossible to answer the question as to the amount required for small bills, or bills not exceeding in amount twenty dollars each, and at the same time include them in the aggregate with the other items of expenditure, because many of these other items are paid in amounts under twenty dollars. Many of the sums paid for repairs, cleaning school houses, furnaces and stoves, and incidental expenses, are paid in amounts under twenty dollars; the Committee, therefore, while they give in their statement of the whole amount paid for everything under the head of small bills, not exceeding in amount twenty dollars, in order that different views of the same amounts might be given, have not included it in their recapitulation, in which they desire to give an

estimate of the whole expenditure for the year. Your Committee believe this to be the object of the County Board.

Your Committee, in order to obtain accurate answers to the questions submitted, sent copies of them to the different Sectional Boards, and answers have been duly returned by all. These answers accompany this report. Some discrepancy exists in these answers, in consequence of the different views taken of the questions by the different Sectional Boards, particularly as to that of amounts required for small bills under twenty dollars; in some of the returns, amounts paid for repairs, &c., are repeated under the head of small bills, in others they are not. All, however, have been corrected in committee, with the sanction of the Controller of the respective sections, so as to conform with the construction of the questions adopted by the Committee by which the whole estimate of expenditure is given.

Your Committee would further remark, that in the returns from the different sections, sums amounting in the aggregate to \$40,950, are required for the erection of School Houses, not under contract. These returns will show the views of the different sections of their wants in this particular. But of this amount, the following only have been acted upon and received the sanction of the Board of Control, viz :

<i>First Section.</i> —Appropriation for Locust Street Secondary	
School,	\$5,000 00
“ “ Appropriation for Class Rooms S. West	
Public School,	1,500 00
<i>Eleventh Section.</i> —For School at Nice Town,	2,250 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 8,750 00

The Sectional Boards have specified the following sums in addition to the above as required for this purpose in their respective sections.

<i>Third Section.</i> —For School at Wharton House,	\$2,200 00
<i>Fourth</i> “ For purchase of Nixon Street Church,	7,000 00
<i>Fifth</i> “ For the Bustleton Academy in lieu of	
rent for ten years,	\$1,000 00
“ “ For the Lower Dublin	
Academy,	1,000 00
“ “ For School at Holmesburg,	4,000 00
	<hr/>
	6,000 00
<i>Sixth Section.</i> —For School at Roxborough,	2,000 00
“ “ For School at Lower Har-	
mony,	2,000 00
“ “ For School at Crescentville,	1,500 00
	<hr/>
	5,500 00

<i>Seventh Section.</i> —For School at Blockley,	2,000 00	
“ “ For School at Hestonville,	2,000 00	
“ “ For School at Paschallville,	2,500 00	
	<hr/>	6,500 00
<i>Eleventh</i> “ For School at Richmond,	. .	5,000 00
Total,	<hr/> \$32,200 00 <hr/>

Whether or not, all or any of these Schools will be required during the current school year, your Committee are unable to say, as the determination of the question requires an examination of a mass of details, into which the Committee had neither the authority, means, nor time to inquire. In the answer to the question submitted under this head, the Committee have returned the whole amount demanded by the Sectional Boards, with the explanation that only \$8750 of the amount has been acted upon by the Board of Control—that no portion has yet been rejected—and that the remaining portion demanded, will be acted upon by the Board of Control, when regularly submitted, with proper vouchers by the Sectional Boards.

The result of the whole investigation will show that the amount of \$180,000 asked by the Board of Control in their requisition, in addition to the sum received from the State, falls short of, rather than exceeds the wants of the system, even if the above-mentioned sum of \$32,200 for building be not included in the estimate; and if any reduction of this requisition is made by the County Board, it is due to themselves, to the public, and the Controllers, that a specific statement of facts should be made, showing in what particulars, under existing laws, the Public School System in the First School District has not been justly and economically administered.

The amount of the whole estimate made by the Committee, is	\$278,529 19
If the amount required for buildings by the Sectional Boards (not yet acted upon by the Board of Control) be deducted,	32,200 00
The balance will be,	<hr/> \$246,329 19 <hr/>

With the above explanations, and referring to the notes and explanations in the returns from the different sections, the Committee report the following answers to the questions submitted.

1. That the sum of \$31,557 96 being the net amount received from the Commonwealth for the present school year, after deducting the amount paid for discount of relief notes, was paid to the Treasurer of the County of Philadelphia, and was paid out with other

monies upon the orders of the Board of Control, passed July 8th, A. D. 1845—a general statement of which orders amounting to \$41,960 15 is herewith submitted.

General Expenses,	\$ 1,655 00
Salaries,	35,877 88
Cleaning School Houses,	545 86
Rent,	2,034 72
Small bills,	1,450 00
Sundries, Watchman, Book cases, Repairs, Printing, &c.	396 69
	<hr/>
	41,960 15

2. The amount expended for supplies, since July 1, 1845, has been \$3,652 91. These supplies were, for the most part, ordered previous to the 1st of July.

3. The amount of appropriation required for the year 1845-6, beyond the amount received from the State, and the \$25,000 recently appropriated by the County Board, will be at least \$155,000; and the amount necessary for each of the items designated by the County Board, will be found in the tabular statement hereto annexed.

Section 1. GEORGE EMLIN, JR.	Sec. 7 & 8. L. CROUSILLAT.
2. JOHN C. SMITH.	9. FRANCIS LYONS.
3. J. P. COLCORD.	10. PETER RAMBO.
5. JACOB SHEARER.	11. A. M. MACPHERSON.
6. G. F. MCCALLMONT.	

CHAMBER OF THE CONTROLLERS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, }
First School District of Pennsylvania. }

PHILADELPHIA, September 23d, 1845.

At a meeting of the Controllers of Public Schools, First School District of Pennsylvania, held at the Controllers' Chamber, this day, the following Resolutions were adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Report of the Committee to whom was referred the communication from the County Board, containing certain questions relative to Public School expenditure, be adopted.

RESOLVED, That the said Report, with the accompanying documents, be forwarded by the officers of this Board, to the County Board, to be laid before that body.

In pursuance of the foregoing, the Report and accompanying documents, are herewith respectfully submitted.

JOHN MILLER, *President*

Of the Controllers of the Public Schools of the First School District of Pennsylvania.

Attest—

THOMAS B. FLORENCE, *Secretary.*

TABULAR STATEMENT.

Answers by the Board of Controllers to the Questions submitted to them by the County Board, Philadelphia, September 9th, 1845.

For the settlement of contracts entered into prior to the 3d inst. for the erection of new school houses.	For the erection of new school houses not yet under contract.	For the payment of salaries of teachers of grammar, secondary and primary schools.	For the payment of professors and teachers of High School.	For the settlement of small bills or bills not exceeding in amount 20 dollars each.	For the payment of ground rents.	For books, stationery, &c.	For cleaning school houses.	For salaries of officers of the board.	For rent of school houses.	For fuel, furnaces and stoves.	For repairs of school houses.	For water rents.	For incidental expenses such as printing, advertising, professional services, carriage hire, hardware, &c.	Recapitulation and Total.
High School, Model School,			11,650 00		130 00	200 00	175 00			190 00	100 00	15 00	850 00	13,300 00
First Section,		3,550 00		6,500 00	720 00		240 00			350 00		10 00		4,150 00
Second do.	\$2,479 44	37,250 00					4,245 00	200 00	4,898 00	1,325 00	1,950 00	175 00	2,000 00	59,253 00
Third do.	2,500 00	15,600 00		1,750 00	76 00		1,204 00	75 00	1,320 00	600 00	370 00	30 00	800 00	22,554 44
Fourth do.	2,350 00	12,975 00		1,700 00			1,348 00	50 00	1,540 00	250 00	200 00	20 00	1,000 00	22,083 00
Fifth do.		13,925 00		1,600 00	160 00		1,325 00	100 00	1,167 00	200 00	350 00	35 00	\$1,325 00	27,937 00
Sixth do.		10,305 00		400 00			344 00		100 00	590 00			200 00	17,539 00
Seventh do.	3,410 00	10,250 00		500 00	156 00		420 00	30 00	700 00	550 00	250 00		300 00	21,566 00
Eighth do.	50 00	5,320 00		450 00			225 50	50 00	201 00	585 00	150 00		110 00	13,191 50
Ninth do.		1,400 00		100 00			75 00	50 00		115 00	350 00		25 00	2,015 00
Tenth do.	1,200 00	7,850 00		800 00	320 00		744 00	50 00	705 00	250 00	200 00	5 00	450 00	11,774 00
Eleventh do.		11,750 00		750 00			922 00	75 00	550 00	110 00	300 00		400 00	14,107 00
General Expenses, Fuel,	7,250 00	5,750 00		300 00		*25,000 00	195 00	50 00	605 00	175 25	424 00		100 00	14,549 25
Salary Secretary and Assistant, Incidental Expenses of Board, Rent of Room, &c. &c.				This column is omitted included in other items.						6,500 00				25,000 00
								1,000 00					2,000 00	6,500 00
														1,000 00
													2,000 00	2,000 00
	\$11,989 44	40,950 00	135,925 00	14,850 00	1,552 00	25,200 00	11,462 50	1,731 00	11,786 00	1,1790 25	4,644 00	290 00	9,560 00	\$278,529 19

* This estimate for supplies of Books, &c. is based upon a statement furnished for six months, from January 1st, to June 30th, 1845, made by the Secretary of the Board of Control, which is herewith submitted.

† In the Model School, 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 9th, 10th and 11th Sections, the Fuel is furnished by the Board of Control. The amounts under the head of Fuel opposite these sections are for Furnaces, Stoves and repairs to the same.

‡ This item includes Janitor \$350, and Watchman \$300.

§ This includes \$350 for new furniture.

|| This includes new furniture.

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